

## Trinity Sunday, Year C, May 22, 2016

This week, instead of celebrating a biblical event or a characteristic of God, the lectionary leads us to celebrate a doctrine – the Trinity. In the face of this "theological" theme, it can be tempting to avoid the lectionary altogether, but, if we have the courage to embrace it, the doctrine of the Trinity can be an exciting and creative playground in which to worship.

### INTRODUCTIONS

*For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines*

**The First Reading** - Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31 : Wisdom sings of being with God at the creation of the world, and of humanity.

**The Psalm** - Psalm 8 : A song of God's majesty, and the honour God has given to humanity.

**The Second Reading** - Romans 5: 1-5 : In Christ God has given us peace and a place of privilege, and has also strengthened us by giving us the Spirit.

**The Gospel Reading** - John 16: 12-15 : Jesus promises the Spirit who will lead us into truth, and teach us all that belongs to Jesus and the Father.

[Click here to view the readings](#)

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=Proverbs%208:%201-4,%2022-31%0Acw%20Psalm%208%0ARomans%205:%201-5%0AJohn%2016:%2012-15](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Proverbs%208:%201-4,%2022-31%0Acw%20Psalm%208%0ARomans%205:%201-5%0AJohn%2016:%2012-15)

### COLLECTS OF THE DAY

#### Collect One

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who hast given unto us thy servants grace  
by the confession of a true faith  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity,  
and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity;  
We beseech thee,  
that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith,  
and evermore defend us from all adversities,  
who livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

#### Collect Two

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have given us your servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith,  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity  
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:  
Keep us steadfast in this faith,  
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;  
for you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Lord God of hosts, you are always asking, "Whom shall I send?" Give each of us the courage of Isaiah to respond, "Here am I, send me."

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: **The whole earth is full of your glory.**

You are beautiful, Lord God, because you are holy, and your voice is all powerful. Give strength to your people, and give the blessings of your peace.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: **The whole earth is full of your glory.**

Spirit of God, when we are fearful you ask us, "Why? Are you not my adopted ones?"

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: **The whole earth is full of your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you speak to us of heavenly things, even when we are most interested in earthly things. Speak to us in the night-times of our lives, that we may learn the Way and the Will of your Holy Spirit.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: **The whole earth is full of your glory.**

The problems of the nations, the politics of parties, the threats and fears of peoples everywhere are all known to you, Almighty God. Save us from fear, greed, revenge, and all evil things that keep us away from love.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: **The whole earth is full of your glory.**

The dying, the sick, the lonely and the forsaken are your special people, for you know the names of each, even as we call upon you, once again, to remember them  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: **The whole earth is full of your glory.**

Come Holy Spirit, come with your life-giving care and joy. **Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION**

Almighty God,  
may we who have received this holy communion,  
worship you with lips and lives  
proclaiming your majesty  
and finally see you in your eternal glory:  
Holy and Eternal Trinity,  
one God, now and for ever.

**PRAYERS**

## Trinity Sunday, Year C, May 22, 2016

O Triune God, your three fold name was placed upon us when we were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And this day we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance of Majesty coequal. Grant us the grace to continue in this faith until we join the hosts of heaven that cry, Holy, holy, holy before you heavenly throne, you who live and rule, one God, through all eternity. **Amen.**

Through your efforts, blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have been redeemed, created, and sanctified. Although we have never understood the fullness of the Trinity, you have granted us new life and have declared us innocent through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. For this we worship you in humble adoration. Keep us in the faith until we join the elect around your glorious throne. We ask this in your name, you who live and rule, ever one God, through all eternity. **Amen.**

O God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in whose name we are baptized and into whose fellowship we have been received. We cling in faith to you, the only God. We praise you dear Father, for having loved us and sent your Son to die for our sins. We praise you dear Jesus, for having redeemed us from our sins by sacrificing yourself for us. We praise you, Holy Spirit, for having sanctified us for you gave us faith and through faith cleansed us from sin. O Triune God, graciously enable us always to believe and obey, and to worship and confess you; Creator, Redeemer and Sanctified, one God, eternal and all-glorious forever. **Amen.**

We bind unto ourselves today  
The strong name of the Trinity  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One, and One in Three.  
Of whom all nature has creation;  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.  
Praise to the Lord of our salvation;  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

O triune God, what an exciting mystery we celebrate today, that you, our God, are three persons in one being. Your essence is so awesome, it is beyond our understanding. O Father, you adopted us as your children through the death and resurrection of your Son. O Holy Spirit, you gave us faith in Jesus through explosive power of the gospel. You testify that we are God's children, and you guarantee our inheritance of eternal glory with Jesus. O holy Trinity, your saving love overwhelms us. Keep us as your own, and each day move us to declare: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty! We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, through all eternity. **Amen.**

*by Arnold Ruddat*

Perfect Light of revelation,  
as you shone in the life of Jesus,  
whose epiphany we celebrate,  
so shine in us and through us,  
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,  
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.

O God,  
you spoke your word  
and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ.  
Fill all creation with that word again,  
so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations  
and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples,  
we may become one living body,  
your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

To God who welcomes all in love,  
let us pray for the good of the church  
and the concerns of those in need.

*Intercessions may be made here*

God of every land and nation,  
you have created all people  
and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ.  
Listen to the cries of those who pray to you,  
and grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name,  
all people will know the power of love at work in the world.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sisters and brothers,  
let us lift our hearts in faith  
to the one who hears all prayers  
and holds close all those in need.

*Intercessions may be made here*

Holy God, you gather the whole universe  
into your radiant presence  
and continually reveal your Son as our Savior.  
Bring healing to all wounds,  
make whole all that is broken,  
speak truth to all illusion,  
and shed light in every darkness,  
that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. Amen.

From your mouth, O God,  
come mercy and righteousness,  
and out of the abundance of your heart  
you have given us your Word made flesh, Jesus the Christ.  
Pour out your Spirit of integrity upon us,  
that all we say and do  
may befit a people made in your image  
and baptized into the dying and rising of your Son. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession  
of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine

## Trinity Sunday, Year C, May 22, 2016

majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship—contemporary language*

Father God, you have created all things and through Christ revealed your salvation in all the world. Give us a vision of your glory and by your Holy Spirit fill us with life and love that we may praise and serve you through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

### Commission and Benediction: Trinity Sunday

God, who created you in the divine image, sends you forth:

**we go,  
to reflect the presence of our Creator  
to everyone we meet.**

Jesus, who has redeemed you,  
has established the reign of God in our midst:

**we go,  
to bring healing to the broken of the world.**

The Holy Spirit, who calls you to be God's people,  
goes with you to many places:

**We go,  
to tear down the walls that divide us,  
and to build lives of hope for all of God's children.**

And now, may the peace of the rolling waves,  
the peace of the silent mountains,  
the peace of the singing stars,  
and the deep, deep peace of the Prince of Peace,  
be with you now and forever. Amen.

- by Thom Shuman

### LECTIONARY NOTES

#### REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

The theme this week is clear – the nature of God as Triune. This “difficult” doctrine of the Church is a tough one to address in a sermon or in worship, which tempts us either to treat

it as an academic exercise, or to skip over it completely. However, the very mystery of this doctrine – and of the texts that are wrapped around it this week – provide a wonderful array of options. There is the opportunity to acknowledge again the limitations of our language and thinking about God, and to embrace God's glorious, infinite mystery. There is the chance to recognise how God has chosen to reveal God's self to humanity in flesh and Spirit, and how Jesus and the Spirit really do show us what God is like. There is also the chance to recognise the work of all three Persons in the life of every woman and man. There is also the opportunity to explore God's nature as community, as Love, as relationship, and what this means for us. Ultimately, though it is wise to bear in mind Richard Rohr's words: "Trinity leads you into the world of mystery and humility where you can not understand, you can only experience." And perhaps the heart of that experience is 'mutuality' – of God within God, and, miraculously, of God with humanity.

**CONNECTING WITH LIFE:**

**GLOBAL APPLICATION:** One of the massive challenges facing our world is competing ideas about God. This does not only apply to religions in conflict, but also to the way God is viewed from the perspective of the sciences – physics, anthropology, sociology and psychology. Within these competing visions of the divine lies the problem of human arrogance, and the need to impose our visions on others. Ultimately when we believe that God is on our side (who or whatever that God may be – from the warrior of a fundamentalist to the science of a Dawkins), we easily deny the humanity, the wisdom and/or the worship of others. As followers of Jesus, though, we are offered a vision that denies us this arrogance. It makes our speaking and thinking about God hesitant and humble, because we are forced to acknowledge the mystery behind the words. It also calls us to allow God's relational image within us to shine forth, leading us to seek connection, mutuality and love with all. These are not two separate attitudes. Humility and mutuality are based on each other, and are a necessary ingredient for any work of reconciliation, peace-making and problem-solving in a world where the struggles we face are bigger than any one person or group.

**LOCAL APPLICATION:** In the Western culture of individuality and self-interest, we too easily lose our sense of connectedness and responsibility for others and for the collective. In the Eastern and African cultures of community and social responsibility, we too easily lose our sense of self-determination and accountability. In both cases, the vision of God that is offered to us in the Trinity gives us what we lack, and enables us to lean into the paradox which values both individuality and mutuality. In our communities and churches, then, we recognise God's call to hold individuals accountable – those in leadership, and those who follow – and to challenge each one to take responsibility and live faithfully and justly (there are no grand children in faith!). But, we also recognise God's call to bring people into humble, respectful, compassionate and generous relationships of mutuality and sharing, in which grace and respect and mercy triumph over judgment, exclusion and partisanship. The Trinity reveals to us both God's confrontation of our human weakness, sinfulness and injustice, and God's invitation to share in God's love and mutuality in communities of faith. The glory is that justice can only truly be enacted when the trust of mutuality is assured, and mutuality can only be maintained when justice is upheld. We are called both to live this truth, and to proclaim it to the world.

**ONLINE SERMON SOURCES**

"What Kind of Math Is This?" Dean Wolfe, Day 1

## Trinity Sunday, Year C, May 22, 2016

Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

[http://day1.org/4759-what\\_kind\\_of\\_math\\_is\\_this](http://day1.org/4759-what_kind_of_math_is_this)

**The Modern Mantra**, the Rev. Rob Giesemann, Sermons that Work, Episcopal Digital Network

It's the modern mantra. People chant it all the time: "I'm spiritual, but not religious. I'm spiritual, but not religious."

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2013/05/06/trinity-sunday-c-2013/>

**Trinity**, Pastor Edward F. Markquart, Grace Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington. In the life of the Church, we have special Sundays. These special Sundays are intended to remember specific historic events in the life of Christ. Such as Easter Sunday which remembers the resurrection of Jesus. Such as Pentecost Sunday which remembers when the Holy Spirit came and lived within the first Christians. But today is the only Sunday in the year which is dedicated to a doctrine, the doctrine of the Trinity.

[http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/series\\_c\\_the\\_trinity.htm](http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/series_c_the_trinity.htm)

**Durham Cathedral sermon**

By the Dean, Michael Sadgrove. Impress with the cultural! Quotes from TS Eliot and RS Thomas... Just keep an eye on last paragraph. It is not the gospel for today this year!

<http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/schedule/sermons/69>

**Sermons that Work, the sermon service of the Episcopal Church.**

We live in an age of conflict. It was probably always so, but we hear about things ...

<http://afmclavier.wordpress.com/sermon-for-trinity-sunday/>

**A difficult day for preachers and congregations!**

Trinity Sunday is a difficult day for preachers, who often feel they have to try to explain the idea of God as Trinity. It's sometimes an even more difficult day for congregations, who have to listen to preachers trying to explain the Trinity.

<http://richardbauckham.co.uk/uploads/Sermons/Trinity.pdf>

**Searching the mystery of love**

Every preacher looks forward to the chance of preaching on the Trinity. It is just as well this homily is in written form: it's difficult to speak with tongue firmly placed in cheek. There is no doubt that preaching on the Trinity is not straightforward. What worries the preacher is saying something wrong in error. - There are several other sermons on today's readings here.

[http://torch.op.org/preaching\\_sermon\\_item.php?sermon=5513&ref=lit](http://torch.op.org/preaching_sermon_item.php?sermon=5513&ref=lit)

**From Menlo Park in sunny California**

<http://stbedesmenlopark.org/trinity-sunday/>

## CHILDREN

Worshiping with Children, Trinity C, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

## Trinity Sunday, Year C, May 22, 2016

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2013/04/year-c-trinity-sunday-may-262013.html>

"God Is So Big..." On the Chancel Steps, children's resources by Frances Woodruff  
<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2013/05/12/big/>

Story for Children's Worship and Family Activity, Trinity, at word-sunday.com: A Catholic Resource for the Lectionary by Larry Broding.  
<http://www.word-sunday.com/index.html>

Who knows - but you might do better for the adults with one of these talks - allegedly for the children!

<http://childrenssermonstoday.blogspot.co.uk/2012/05/trinity-sunday.html>

<http://sermonsforyou.blogspot.co.uk/2009/06/trinity-sunday-childrens.html>

<http://thechildrenssermon.com/john3b.html>

<http://www.sundaychildrensfocus.com/index.php/childrens-story-for-trinity-sunday.html>

### **HYMN SUGGESTIONS**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Father, We Praise Thee

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Immortal Invisible

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Father, Spirit, Jesus (YouTube video)

Praise The Father, Praise The Son (YouTube video)

Glorify Your Name (YouTube video)

Father, I Adore You (YouTube video)